

"A crooked log makes a strait fire."

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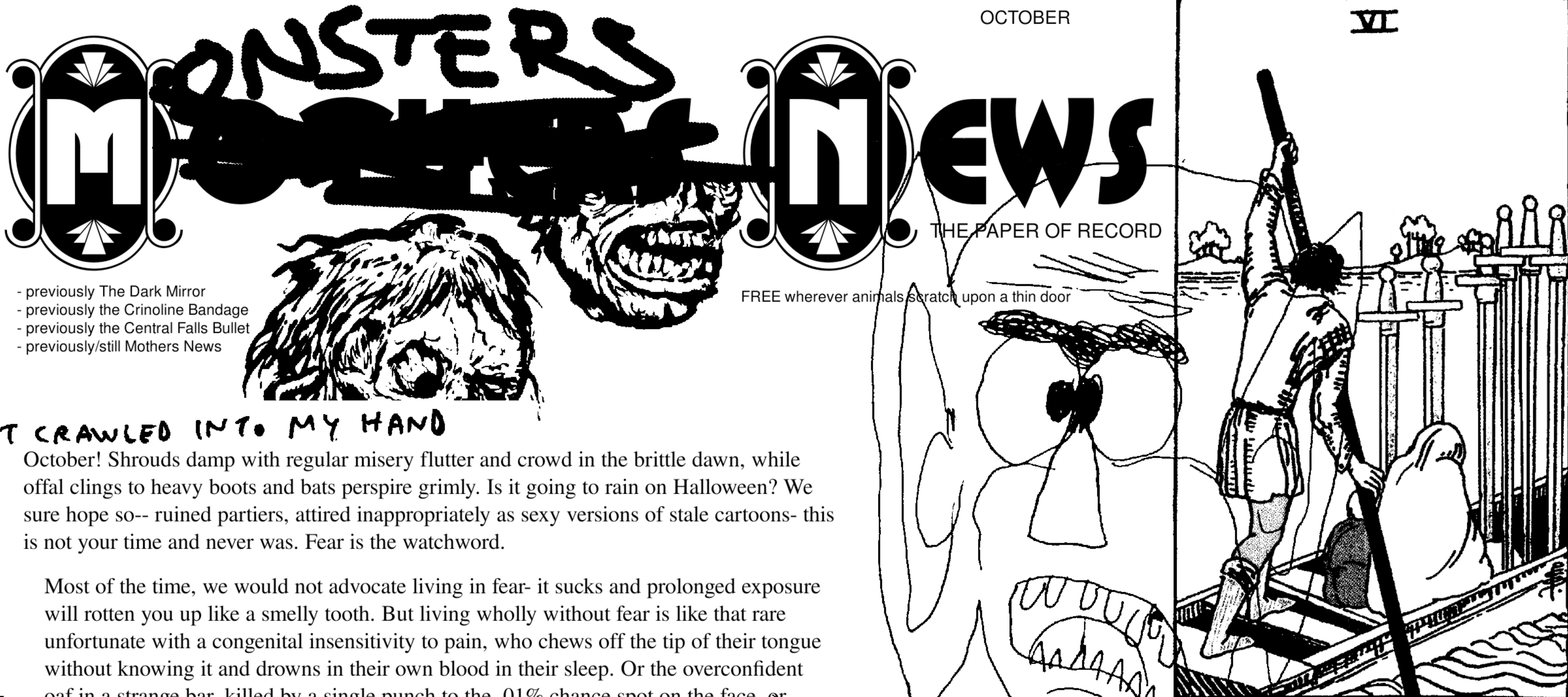
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- previously The Dark Mirror
- previously the Crinoline Bandage
- previously the Central Falls Bullet
- previously/still Mothers News

IT CRAWLED INTO MY HAND

October! Shrouds damp with regular misery flutter and crowd in the brittle dawn, while offal clings to heavy boots and bats perspire grimly. Is it going to rain on Halloween? We sure hope so-- ruined partiers, attired inappropriately as sexy versions of stale cartoons- this is not your time and never was. Fear is the watchword.

Most of the time, we would not advocate living in fear- it sucks and prolonged exposure will rotten you up like a smelly tooth. But living wholly without fear is like that rare unfortunate with a congenital insensitivity to pain, who chews off the tip of their tongue without knowing it and drowns in their own blood in their sleep. Or the overconfident oaf in a strange bar, killed by a single punch to the .01% chance spot on the face, or knifed unceremoniously by a passing smear. A certain amount of fear is good. It informs us, and counsels us. And in October, for whatever reason, it counsels us extremely loud. You don't want to be so afraid of the stairs that you don't go upstairs in the library- that's where they keep the magazines. But it's good to let the stairs a little bit freak us out now and then- after all, over a thousand people die on the stairs every year.

Things to fear: the stairs; the winter; death. For: fear; indignity; a dog shivering in a thunderstorm. Maybe you won't live until lunchtime... Maybe... you won't. Live... until lunchtime. This is the only way to lunch.

You are the thunder and the dog...

The official punctuation mark of October is... the ellipse...

HOLIDAYS IN OCTOBER

Halloween is a holiday that marks the end of the Halloween season, a sort of night-long last call. Just like how people expect you to do good will all during the Christmas season and not just on Christmas, all throughout the Halloween season we expect you to be haunting around at night, hanging out in graveyards, drinking potions, wearing tights, standing in drafts, and leaving orange streaks when you drag a pickaxe across the street. As Spring's color is green, the vulgar color of life, Fall's color is orange, the anti-green, the vulgar color of disintegration.

ORANGE

"Those persons... who are energetic and incisive, the plethoric, red-blooded, ...who fling themselves unthinkingly into the affair of the moment, generally delight in the bold gleams of yellows and reds, the clashing cymbals of vermilions and chromes that blind and intoxicate them. But the eyes of enfeebled and nervous persons whose sensual appetites crave highly seasoned foods, the eyes of hectic and over-excited creatures have a predilection toward that irritating and morbid color with its fictitious splendors, its acid fevers— orange." -JK Huysmans, *Au Rebour*

- Orange is the contrasting colour of blue and is highly visible against a clear sky. Therefore, shades of orange such as safety orange are often used in high visibility clothing and other safety equipment and objects.

- In hindu Tantrism, Orange is used to symbolically represent the second (Swadhisthana) chakra. Swadhisthana is positioned at the tailbone, two finger-widths above Muladhara. It has six petals which match the vritis of affection, pitilessness, feeling of all-destructiveness, delusion, disdain and suspicion. Through meditation on Swadhisthana, the following siddhis or occult powers are said to be obtained- You are freed from all your enemies, and become a lord among yogis; your words flow like nectar in well-reasoned discourse; you gain loss of fear of water, awareness of astral entities, and the ability to taste anything desired for oneself or others.

- Orange is used to promote awareness of self-inflicted injury.

A MESSAGE FOR KIDS

KIDS! if you're out trick or treating and someone is out of candy, or their lights are on but they aren't answering their door, or they aren't giving out actual candy, just crayons or something, you are LEGALLY OBLIGATED to do something bad! shaving cream, toilet paper, whatever. If you're caught without proper ammo, be creative- spit on car door handles or something. you can't "save it for later"- only valid night of. THIS IS THE LAW OF HALLOWEEN which has nothing to do with the law of your city or town, so if you see cops, run. And if they catch you deny everything. And if they say "if you're innocent why did you run?" tell them you thought they were bad kids dressed as cops. Also, if you get caught by homeowners look them dead in the eye real mean and piss yourself- it maybe doesn't seem like it, but this will terrify and confuse them enough for you to make an escape, and besides which no one wants a sticky baby.

THIS MESSAGE IS FOR KIDS ONLY!

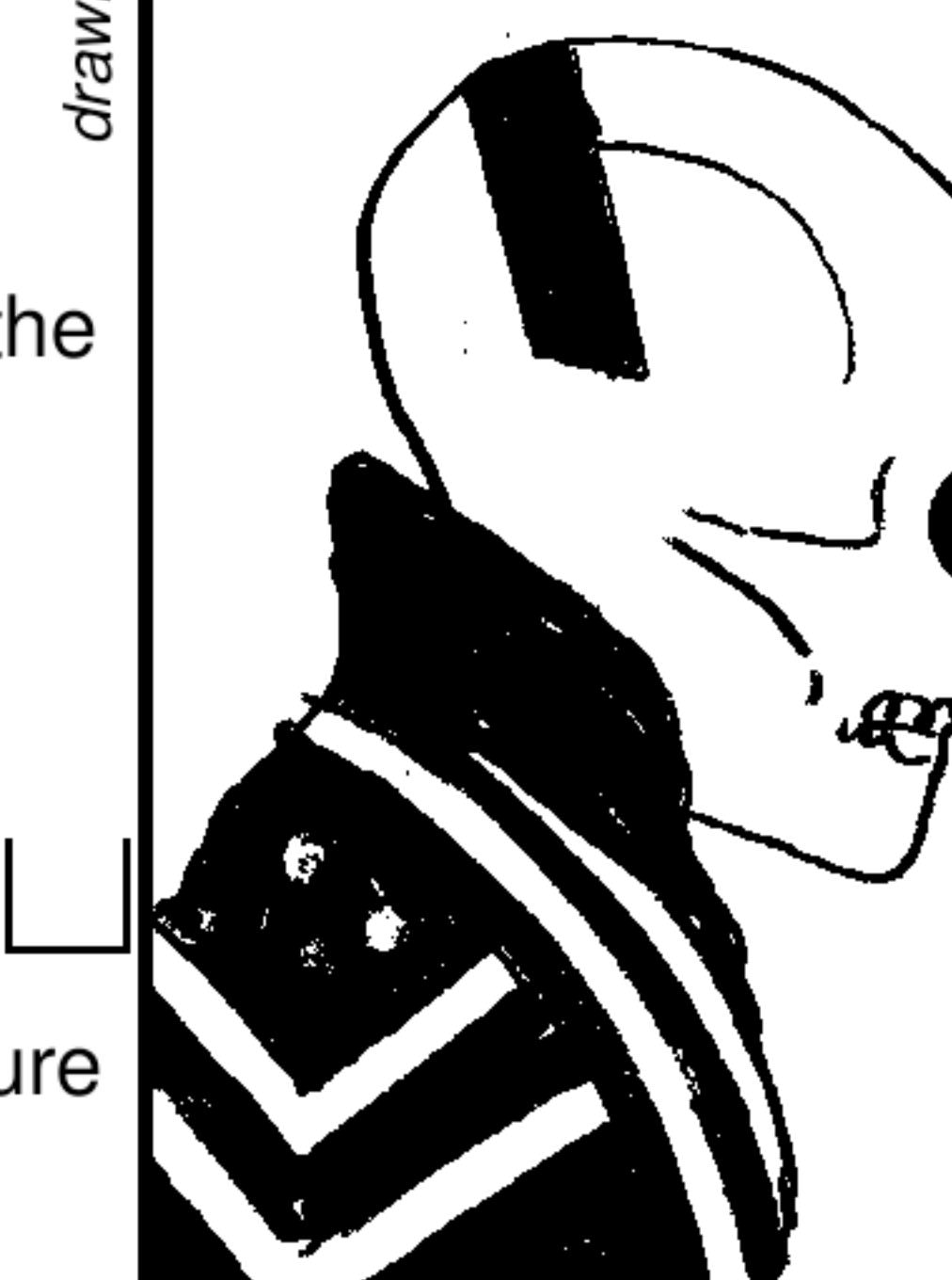
THE AMBROSE BIERCE MEMORIAL WORD JUMBLE
by Ambrose Bierce before he died



SNERTABIA - A weak person who yields to the temptation of denying himself a pleasure.

CONTLIAYICUBTA - The mother of caution.

ZIGELAOOP - To lay the foundation for a future offence.

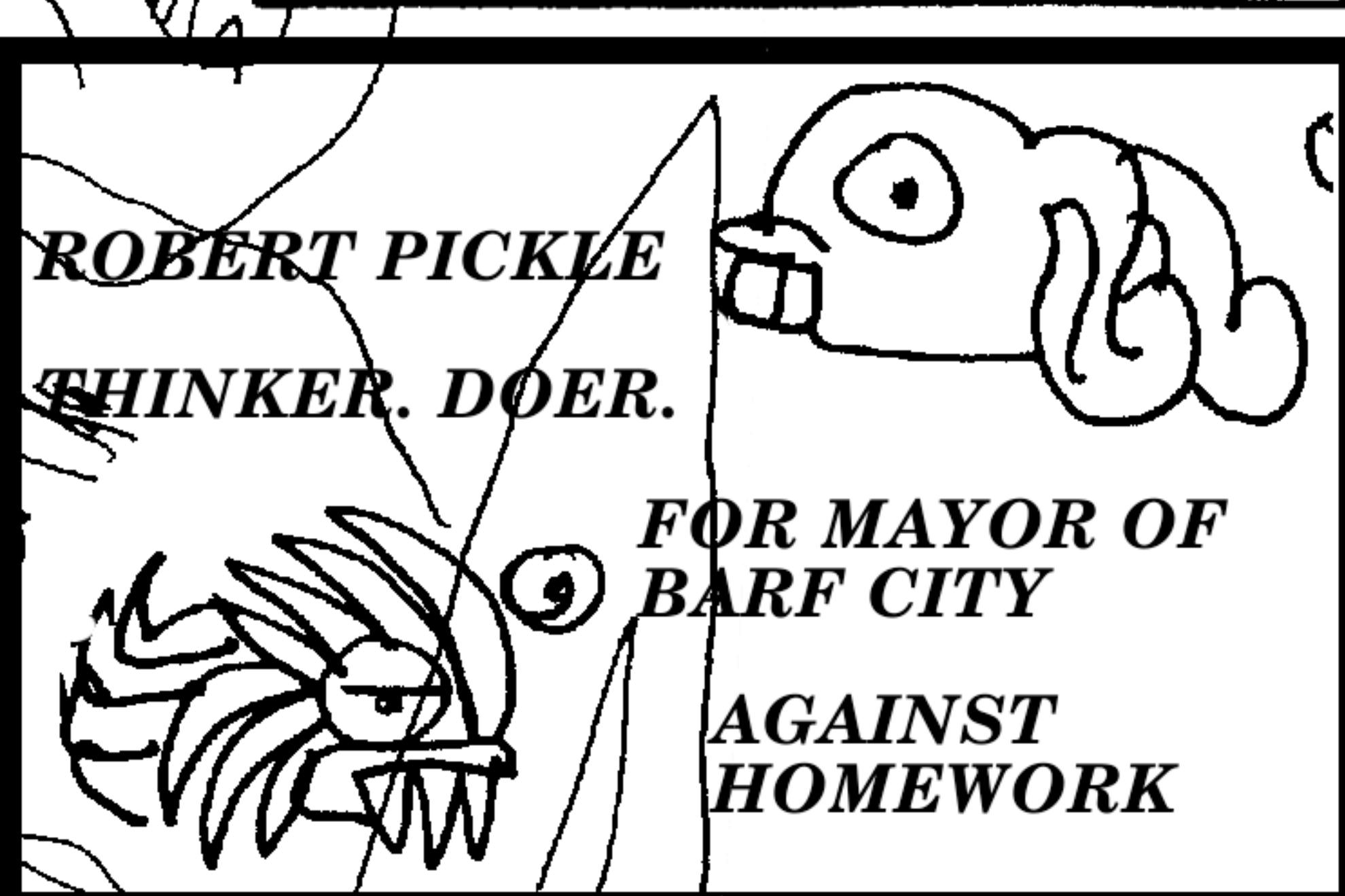
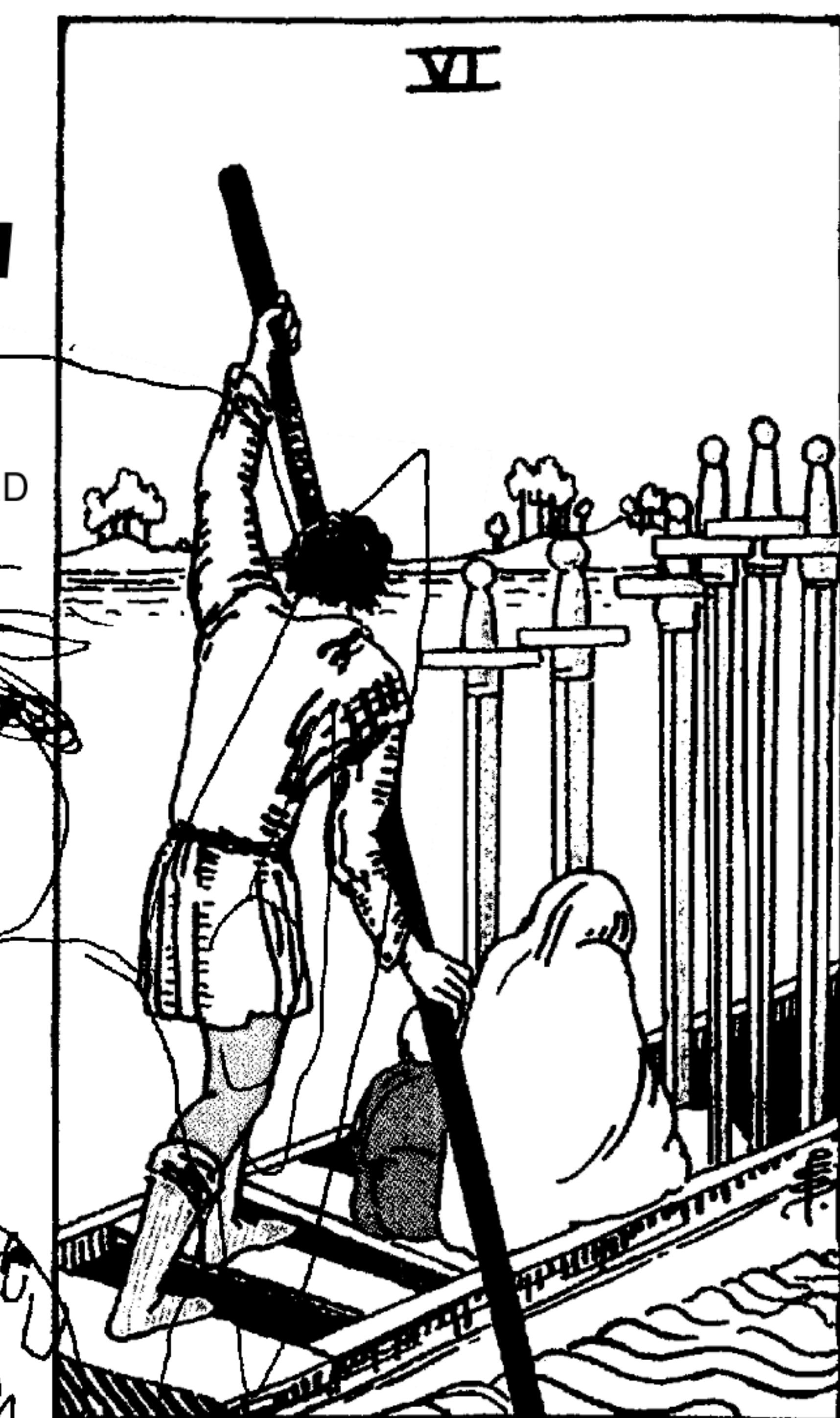


MORE POEMS
a recurring feature
by MW

Back It Up

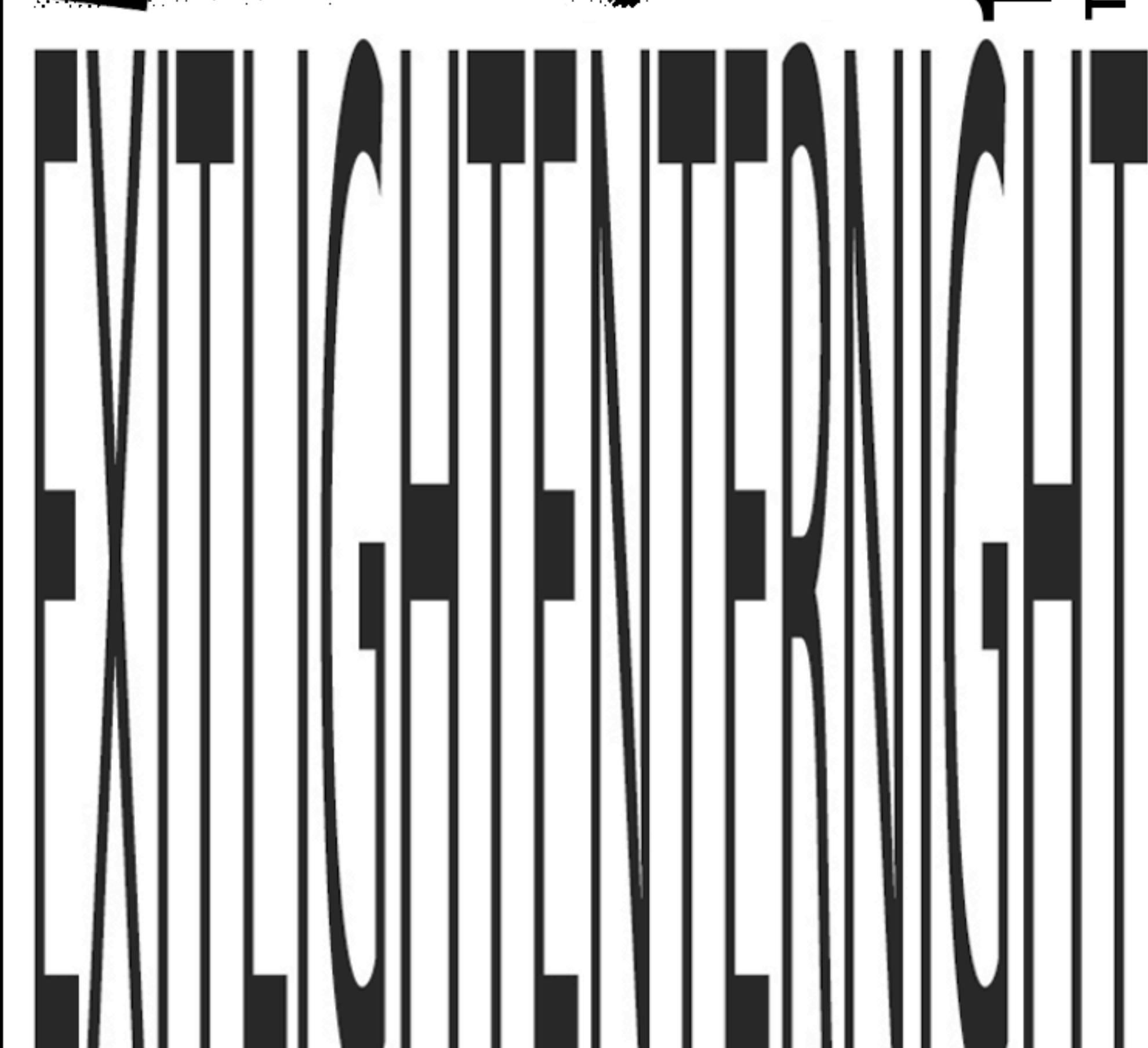
It may not be
the best thing you've ever had
but it does lend
skin to solid rambling

OCTOBER



out of deference to our less-understanding customers, we ask all monsters to please use the following codes when ordering:
-- if you want a chalice of clotted toad venom, ask for a "vanilla iced chai".
-- if you want a teenager arm-meat omelet, please ask for an "everything bagel with strawberry cream cheese".

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